

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, December 1887, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Failure No. 1. Edgartown. 1887. Sunday, Dec. something, My dear little wife:

Why can't I write to you every day — as a dutiful husband should. Here I have been gone — yes — a week — for this is really Monday morning and this is the first communication I have sent you excepting by telegraph.

I thought it well to remain in Philadelphia over Tuesday so as to attend the Deaf-Mute Reception in the evening. I am glad I did so for I think I have made many deaf friends. I was struck by the curious attention with which I was regarded by a circle of deaf-mute eyes — as a gentleman was brought up to be introduced to me. He seemed also to be regarded with great interest. The mystery was cleared up when I was introduced to — Mr. ARMES! — I shook hands with him very cordially and told him I should like to have the opportunity of talking with him in order to show him that I was not the sort of man he took me to be.

The address on Monday evening was delivered to a large audience — I presume a couple of thousand people. I was disappointed with it — for I had woefully miscalculated my powers of contraction.

I commenced well and went on well — till I saw Mr. Grouter looking at his watch — and then the conviction came over me that I had quite overstepped my time and had not half finished. I therefore closed in short order — omitting many of the nice little sentences I had carefully prepared in the train!

Library of Congress

Wednesday morning I visited Miss Jarretts.